Luke Kowalski

Have You Ever Heard of the Holy Roman Empire?

Introduction

The Holy Roman Empire lasted 839 years. It was located in modern day Germany. The Holy Roman Empire is one of the most well-known nations with the elective monarchy government in history.

Rise and Fall

The Holy Roman Empire rose in 962CE and it fell in 1806 CE. The Holy Roman Empire was an attempt to resurrect the Western Roman Empire. It officially began when Pope John XII crowned Otto I King of Germany and gave him the title of Emperor. It fell during the 3rd coalition when Emperor Francis II abdicated because of the loss of the battle of Austerlitz. Afterwards, Napoleon dismantled the Holy Roman Empire.

Government

The Holy Roman Empire had an elective monarchy government system. There were seven Prince—Elector States. There were three religious electors (the Archbishop of Mainz, the Archbishop of Trier and the Archbishop of Cologne). There were also four irreligious electors (the King of Bohemia, the Count Palatine of the Rhine, The Duke of Saxony and the Margrave of Brandenburg). From 1453 to 1740 only nobles from the House of the Habsburg could become Emperor making it unofficially hereditary.

Thirty Years War

The Thirty Years War was a religious war centred in the Holy Roman Empire. It was a war between the northern Protestant states and the southern Catholic states. It started as a religious war but then it became more of a continental war. Catholic countries like France joined the Protestant league so they could fight their rivals. It lasted twenty nine years and eleven months. The Protestants, mainly the French were the victors.

Conclusion

The Holy Roman Empire was one of the most influential nations in our history. Voltaire once said it was “neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire.”